

Monroe Lake / Paynetown SRA

4850 South State Road 446

Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Office # (812) 837-9546

Park Manager: Jim Roach

Asst. Park Manager: Corey Rieman



Nature Center Staff:

Jill Vance

David Garner

October Nature Center Hours: Closed

www.stateparks.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Friday September 30

1pm-2pm Kids Hour

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter to discover what fun activities we have for you today.

6:00pm Pinwheels & Wind

Waiting to get into the Campground or need time to set-up your tent? Send your kids across from the Campground Gate to explore wind as a natural resource during this make it - take it craft.

Saturday October 1

9am-4pm Camouflage the Duck Blinds

Youth and adults interested in waterfowl hunting and waterfowl observation are invited to help clean, repair, and camouflage the waterfowl hunting blinds in the Stillwater-Northfork Waterfowl area. The day will include a short training session on waterfowl blinds and a waterfowl management program. Lunch will be provided for all participants.

Bring work gloves and any hand tools you feel will be helpful. Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather. Donations of vegetables or meat for the stew at lunch are welcome.

Meet at the Stillwater-Northfork Duck Check Station on Kent Road and McGowan Rd east of Bloomington off of Hwy 446. *Registration is requested (but not necessary). Please call the Paynetown Visitor Center at 812-837-9546 between 8am and 4pm.*

Saturday October 1, continued...

3:30pm Bluebird Trail Wander

Join the naturalist on this moderate hike through the woods in seek of some early Fall color. Meet at the Trailhead near the Overflow Parking Lot.

6pm-7pm Naturalist on the Run

Watch for the Naturalist in the Campground. Find him and see what he has to share with you today.

8:00pm Nature Center Movie Night

Come to the Nature Center Amphitheater to watch some fun short Cartoons from the old camping days and new. Limited seating is available, so bring your own chair or a blanket. Great fun for the kids and parents! Join us!

Sunday October 2

10:30am Worms ate my Lunch!

Meet the Naturalist on the Nature Center Shelter to learn how you can grow your own worms. Worms are not only good for fishing, but also making our flowers grow. Come and learn how! Great for kids!

1pm-2pm Craft Hour

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter to make a cool craft that they can take back home with you. It is sure to be a fun time!

Saturday October 8

9am-1pm Waterfowl Hunting Workshop

Designed for the beginning waterfowl hunter, this workshop will cover waterfowl hunting regulations, duck and goose identification, and hunting equipment and techniques. All ages are welcome; lunch will be provided.

The workshop is free, but **registration is required**. Call the South Region Law Enforcement Office at 812-837-9536 to sign up. The workshop will take place at Lake Monroe's North Fork Service Area, request directions when you register.

11:00am Creature Feature: Snakes

Snakes have some really cool adaptations that help them catch and eat their food. Come to the Nature Center Amphitheater to meet a live snake up close and discover what it takes to put dinner "on the table."

2:00pm Fungi Fun

Come over to the table by Deer Run Shelter to learn about the parts of a mushroom and make a cute mushroom to hang in your room, RV, or car window. After the craft, you'll have the option to join the naturalist for a hike through the woods to look for real fungi.

5pm-6pm Naturalist on the Run

Watch for the Naturalist in the Campground. Find him and see what he has to share with you today.

7:00pm Twilight Hike

Meet at the Trailhead near the Overflow Parking Lot. Bring a flashlight, but we won't use them the whole time! **Youth under the age of 12 must be accompanied by someone 16 or older.**

Sunday October 9

10:30am-11:30am Fall Craft Hour

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter to make a cool autumn craft that you can take home.



October 15 & October 16 Youth Duck Hunt

Hunters who are 15 years or younger, and accompanied by an adult (the adult is not allowed to hunt), are invited to participate in this special youth hunt. Youth hunters must abide by all harvest restrictions and bag limits. All open hunt areas of the lake may be hunted within regular season restrictions, with mandatory self check-in at the Crooked Creek or Paynetown Office Stations.

A special drawing will be held for Resting Area hunts in the Stillwater-Northfork Area. The drawing will be held at the Northfork Hunter Check Station. Draw times are 5:30am for Oct 15, and 10:30am for Oct 16. For this hunt only, parties of two and three will draw together (at least one youth hunter required per party).

Shooting Hours

Oct 15: ½ hr before Sunrise - 12pm

Oct 16: 12:00pm - Sunset

Saturday October 15

Monroe Fall Excursion Geocaching Event

1:00pm Registration Starts Registration for this event will be located for the Deer Run Shelter. Once registered, you will receive the event coordinates.

1:30pm-4:30pm Geocaching Event - This event is a poker run the best hand wins. Some of the caches will only be accessible by boat, so bring your canoe, kayak, or motor boat. The lake Monroe Boat Rental has donated the use of three canoes for participants to use during the event.

5:00pm Pitch-in Dinner / Prizes – Come by the Nature Center Shelter for the geocachers pitch-in Dinner. Learn who has the best poker hand and wins the prize. A 50/50 drawing will be held at 5:30, so make sure to get your tickets. **Pitch-in Dinner is open to Geocachers that have participated in this geocaching event.**

6pm-7pm Freddie Shaw Band

Come and listen to some Blues music after a great day of geocaching, fishing, or boating. The music is open to everybody. Bring a chair or a blanket to Nature Center Amphitheater for this FREE concert.

Sunday October 16

10:30am-11:30am Fall Craft Hour

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter to make a cool autumn craft that you can take home.

October 22 – October 30

Duck & Goose Hunting Season

Duck hunting is allowed in open areas, main lake, Crooked Creek, and Crooked Creek Marshes during legal shooting hours within State and Federal regulations. Mandatory check-in and possession of one-day waterfowl hunting permit is required. Hunting parties must hunt at least 300 yards from safety zones, recreation areas, resting areas, and other hunting parties. Hunting in Resting Areas is by draw only.



October 22

Resting Area Duck Hunts

Shooting Hours: ½ hr before Sunrise – 12pm

Stillwater-Northfork Resting Area

Drawn hunters only. All hunting sites in the area north of the southern boundary of the Northfork Resting area, to the Kent Bridge on the Northfork of Salt Creek, and the Stevens Creek Bridge on Friendship Road will have a 5:30am draw at the Northfork Check Station. *Waterfowl hunting will be permitted only from designated sites in this area. There is a limit of 15 shot shells per hunter. Some areas may not be flooded; check with the Paynetown Office for sites available.*

Middlefork Resting Area

Middlefork is divided into two relatively equal Zones with Zone 1 checking in at the Crooked Creek Check Station, and Zone 2 checking in at the Paynetown Office or Cutright Check Station. *Hunters must hunt at least 300 yards from other hunting parties. Some areas may not be flooded; check with the Paynetown Office for sites available.*

Southfork Marshes Resting Area

Maximum of three hunting parties per marsh. Self check-in is mandatory. *Road access will be difficult. Some areas may not be flooded; check with the Paynetown Office for sites available.*

Saturday October 22

10:30am Fall Color Stroll

Come and take a walk in the woods and enjoy the sights of the Fall colors on the trees and on the ground. Meet at the Trailhead near the Overflow Parking Lot for this 30 minute stroll.

2:00pm Fall Color Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter for your Scavenger Hunt items. Make sure to bring your Digital Camera. Go out and shoot them all and get a prize.

6pm-7pm Naturalist on the Run

Watch for the Naturalist in the Campground. Find her and see what she has to share with you today.

8:00pm Stars and Stories

We'll turn our gaze upward this evening to identify stars and their constellations. Learn how to navigate your way across the night sky and listen to some of the stories behind the names. We'll gather on the Paynetown Beach, so bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. (If the sky is cloudy, we'll still share stories.)

Sunday October 23

10:30am-11:30am Fall Craft Hour

Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center Shelter to make a cool autumn craft that you can take home.

"A woodland in full color is awesome as a forest fire, in magnitude at least, but a single tree is like a dancing tongue of flame to warm the heart."

Hal Borland



October 25

Resting Area Duck Hunts

Shooting Hours: 12:00pm – Sunset

Stillwater-Northfork Resting Area

Drawn hunters only. All hunting sites in the area north of the southern boundary of the Northfork Resting area, to the Kent Bridge on the Northfork of Salt Creek, and the Stevens Creek Bridge on Friendship Road will have a 10:30am draw at the Northfork Check Station. *Waterfowl hunting will be permitted only from designated sites in this area. There is a limit of 15 shot shells per hunter. Some areas may not be flooded; check with the Paynetown Office for sites available.*

Middlefork Resting Area

Middlefork is divided into two relatively equal Zones with Zone 1 checking in at the Crooked Creek Check Station, and Zone 2 checking in at the Paynetown Office or Cutright Check Station. *Hunters must hunt at least 300 yards from other hunting parties. Some areas may not be flooded; check with the Paynetown Office for sites available.*

Southfork Marshes Resting Area

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Saturday October 29

2pm-4pm Creepy Crafts!

Drop by anytime during this period to make some fun, seasonal crafts. Look for the craft tables near the Campground Gate.

5:30p-7pm Campsite Decorating Contest

Vote for your favorite campsite today! All Campers receive a voting ballot at check-in, and extras are available at the Campground Gate. Votes should be turned in by 7pm to the campground gate. Winner announced at the Campfire. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

5:30p-7pm Campground Trick-or-Treating

Meander through the campground in search of some candy! If your campsite is handing out candy, please sit in a visible spot near the road. *Don't forget to check-out the Campsite Decorating Contest at the same time!*

7:30pm Costume Contest

We want to see all of your crazy and creative costumes! Dress up and "walk the runway" for your fellow campers. We'll be awarding prizes to best costume in each age group (ages 0-3, 4-8, 9-12, 13-17, and 18+). *Please be respectful of your fellow campers and wear only family-friendly costumes.* Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on and gather across from the Campground Gate (look for the naturalist and the campfire).

8:15pm Creepy Campfire

We'll share stories of hauntings, mysterious creatures, and strange events that are part of the folklore at different Indiana state parks and reservoirs. Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on and gather across from the Campground Gate (look for the naturalist and the campfire).



"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."
Henry David Thoreau

October 28

Resting Area Duck Hunts

See hunt descriptions under October 22.

October 30

Resting Area Duck Hunts

See hunt descriptions under October 25.